



Foreword

The Office of Climate Observation is pleased to present the Fiscal-Year 2005 Annual Report on the State of the Ocean and Ocean Observing System for Climate. This effort is intended to be primarily an internal management tool but it is hoped that the Annual Report may develop over the next few years into an authoritative public record of the progress of the global observing system and its effectiveness in documenting the ocean's contribution to our Earth's changing climate.

Many people have contributed to this report either directly or indirectly, including scientists, engineers, technicians, researchers, teachers, and students at laboratories, universities, and oceanographic and atmospheric centers and institutions. The officers, crews, and volunteers on board the vessels where the fieldwork occurred played a major role as well. This document is a collaborative effort produced by a dedicated team of individuals focused on learning more about the influences of our oceans on climate.

The plan for implementing the global ocean observing system has been developed and agreed internationally, and we have taken great strides as a global community to fulfill the long-term goals that will achieve this monumental effort. We are proud to be part of the NOAA team that has worked closely with partners from more than 60 nations to bring the global observing system this far.

During FY 2005 incremental advancements were made across all of the observing networks and two particularly significant milestones were achieved. First, the Global Ocean Observing System passed the 50% completion mark, advancing by 7% from 48% to 55% complete. Second, on 18 September 2005, Global Drifter 1250 was ceremonially deployed near Halifax in conjunction with the second session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology. With this deployment, the global drifting buoy array reached its design goal of 1250 data buoys in sustained service and became the first component of the Global Ocean Observing System to be fully implemented. Eighty-seven representatives from 16 countries participated in the celebration. The central image on the cover of this year's Annual Report commemorates this historic milestone.

The Office of Climate Observation is convinced that the accomplishments outlined within this report will help the global community understand more clearly and quantitatively the role of the oceans in our Earth's ever-changing climate system. We look forward to the future as we unravel the mystery of our oceans together. It is with great pleasure that we present this work.

Mike Johnson
Director, Office of Climate Observation
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